(*b*) the amount sanctioned for the maintenance per mile of similar roads in the High Range and the amounts sanctioned for the maintenance per mile of the said road ; and

(*c*) whether there are points on this dangerous road where it is not possible for motor-buses coming from opposite directions to cross each other?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott (*Chief Engineer*) : (*a*) The gradients of the Lalam-Todupuzha road at Nellappara (11/8 and 12/1) are 1 in 12 to 1 in 13 and at turnings they range between 1 in 8 and 1 in 9 for very short distances.

(*b*) Rs. 200 for Lalam-Todupuzha road ; Rs. 300 for similar roads in the High Ranges.

(*c*) Yes, in certain places.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : ഹൈറേഞ്ചിലെ റോഡുകളിൽ മെയിൻറനൻസിന് മൈലൊന്നിന അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുകയുന്നാടെന്ന അറിയാമൊ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : For similar roads in the High Ranges the amount sanctioned by Government is Rs. 300 per mile. It is a question of availability of funds.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങളെക്കൂടി പരിഹരിച്ചുതരണമെന്ന മെമ്പർ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടൊ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : I have answered it already. It is a question of availability of funds.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള മെയിൻറനൻസിന്റെ തുക കുറേക്കൂടി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്ന മെമ്പർവിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടൊ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : We will do what we can.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : ബസ്സുകൾക്കു സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതിന് സാധിക്കാത്തവിധത്തിൽ ഉർഘടമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ അവിടെയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : No, Sir.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : അധികം താമസിയാതെ തന്നെ ഈ റോഡുകളെ തന്നെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതിന മെമ്പർക്കു ദയവുണ്ടാകുമൊ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : This will be considered if I have an opportunity.

Murder cases in the Minachil taluk.

32. * **Mr. J. John Kattakayam** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the largest number of murder cases in Travancore is in the Minachil taluk ;

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[Mr. J. John Kattakayam.]

(*b*) the number of such cases that took place in that taluk during the last twelve years ; and

(*c*) of these, the number which ended in punishment ?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 106.

(*c*) 44.

(The answer was also given in Malayalam.)

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai (*Municipal Councils*) : May I know from the member how many such assailants were bound over by the Police ?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar : I have not the information ready at hand. But I think that there is a fair number of such cases.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know how the Police Commissioner accounts for the small percentage of convictions in those cases ?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar : I think 44 out of 106 is a decent percentage for a restricted area.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know, Sir, whether the Commissioner thinks it to be a decent percentage from the point of view of his department ?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar : I should be very satisfied if I could get a hundred per cent. conviction.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : I ask why a better percentage of conviction could not be got ?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar : There is a lot of things that ought to be considered.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether it is not due to the inefficiency of the Police Department that the percentage of convictions has decreased ?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar : I do not subscribe to that view.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know to what he ascribes this small per centage of convictions ?

President : Well, he has already said that the percentage is fairly satisfactory.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know, Sir, whether even with his experience elsewhere he still thinks that the percentage of convictions is satisfactory here ?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar : Most undoubtedly, Sir.

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Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member the reasons, if any, that led to the largest number of murder cases in the Minachil taluk?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar: Personally I think, Sir, that knifing is rather common in the taluk and also that it is due to the large number of liquor shops.

Murder cases that ended in acquittal.

33. * **Mr. J. John Kattakayam:** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of murder cases in which accuseds were acquitted by the High Court during the last twelve years, for want of evidence?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar: 35.

(The answer was given also in Malayalam.)

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: ഇത്രയധികം കേസുകൾ തെളിവിൽ വരാതിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ കുറവോ അതല്ല നീതിന്യായാധിപന്മാരുടെ കുറവോ?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar: It is very difficult to tell whether it is due to the fault of the department or the courts or subornation of witnesses or clever lawyers that the number of convictions has been what it is. There are so many elements, as I said, that help or hinder convictions.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെപേരിൽ ഈ കുറവു മുഴുവനുംകൊണ്ടു് മെമ്പർക്കു് വിരോധമുണ്ടോ?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar: Most certainly.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I know whether the investigations were satisfactorily done with regard to these cases?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar: Not so satisfactorily as I should like to have it done.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: If not what steps have been taken by the Commissioner to have a better prosecution of criminal cases?

Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar: Every possible step has been taken and if I start to adumbrate all that has been done it would be a lecture.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I know whether he has been satisfied with the kind of stuff that is available in the department?

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